

October 21, 2005

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

CHIEF J. ALLAN, CHAIRMAN
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REFERENCE:

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Congressman Otter:

I am writing **this** letter to convey the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's (Tribe) overall support for the bill that would amend the ***Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act*** (Act). As you know, the Tribe has placed an extremely high value on the protection of the Tribe's children and encouraging healthy lifestyles that ensure family unity. The Tribe does not tolerate behavior that places its children at risk of abuse and encourages its families to seek alternatives to solve disputes, which do not include violence as **an** option. The Tribe recognizes that the Act would seek to improve the confidentiality of child abuse treatment or investigations, authorize appropriations for the Indian child abuse treatment grant program, allow telemedicine to be more widely available for victims of abuse, and streamline the Indian child resource and family services centers along with the Indian child protection and family violence prevention program.

The Tribe encourages Congress to utilize the Act as a tool in assisting the Tribe to prevent child abuse and family violence. Currently, the Tribe operates a STOP Violence Against Indian Women program that is dedicated to ending the cycle of violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and stalking through awareness and intervention programs. The Tribe also operates an Indian Child Welfare and Youth Shelter Program that is designed to improve and maintain the emotional, physical, and spiritual health of Indian children and their families that may experience stressful situations. Domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and stalking are not traditional to the Tribe's cultural tenets and way of life that emphasizes humanity, dignity, and respect for revered cultural beliefs.

I look forward to working with you on these issues that are of paramount concern to the Tribe. Should you have further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me through the legislative director, Quanah Spencer, by telephone at (208) **686-0803** or e-mail at qspencer@cdatribe-nsn.gov. Thank you for your effort on this issue.

Sincerely,


Chief J. Allan, Chairman
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Cja:qms